

real attitude of Great Britain. If such information is forthcoming it will be filed at once in the State Department and will be laid before President Wilson for future consideration.

Although the President is not ready to make any move for peace now it is known that he would willingly seize the first opportunity that he believed promised definite results. Any intimation, however vague, might indicate a willingness of Great Britain and her allies to consider peace would, of course, afford an opening for this Government. Mr. Page may be in a position to interpret the real attitude of the Entente toward the peace proposal, even though appearances do not divulge it. It is explained, for example, that Lloyd George may voice the latest sentiment and hostility toward the proposal without this necessarily meaning that the Entente will flinch close the door to all peace discussion. Speeches by the Entente in Parliament are regarded here as three-fourths for home consumption.

GREECE PLEADS FOR ALLIES' FRIENDSHIP

Promises to Comply With All Demands, Saying It Is Proof of Good Will.

PARIS, Dec. 16.—An official telegram announcing that Greece had accepted unreservedly the conditions of the Allies was received at the Foreign Office, according to the Paris press.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—According to an Athens despatch to Reuters, the Greek Government has replied to the Allies' ultimatum by accepting the conditions demanded in it, as it is desirous of giving another proof of "the sincerely friendly sentiments which have always animated it toward the Entente." The reply says that no hostile movements of troops have ever taken place or been projected and that the transfer of material northward will immediately cease. Orders have already been given, it is stated, regarding the movements of troops and war material and will be carried out as rapidly as possible.

In respect to the attack on British and French marines in Athens on December 1 the Government declares that it desires to give every explanation satisfactory to the Allies and to refer the matter to arbitration. It expresses the hope that the Allied Powers will reconsider their decision to continue the blockade which, it says, is straining relations and impressing public opinion. The reply concludes with the expression of a desire by the Government and people for excellent traditional confidence which previously existed between Greece and the Entente nations.

GERMAN CONSUL DIES.

Reports to Berlin Put Blame on Arrest by Entente.

BERLIN, Dec. 16.—The German, Austro-Hungarian and Turkish residents of the Greek island of Syra were arrested by an Entente detachment that landed there according to official reports that have reached Berlin.

"The German Consul," says one report, "died twenty-four hours later from the effects of the abominable treatment he received. He was 70 years of age. He was a Greek citizen named Dallegio, who had been for thirty-three years in the German service."

"Entente detachments on a previous occasion had inflicted similar treatment upon Consul Steinlein, in the island of Chios, who is 75 years old. He was captured and carried off in the nighttime by Entente forces."

A despatch from Athens delayed in transmission, describing the recent fighting there, says:

"The bombardment of the royal palace was opened without warning. The Queen and the royal children were forced to take refuge in the cellars of the palace during the firing, which continued for three hours."

An Athens despatch on November 25 reported the deportation from Syra to Malta on board a warship of the German Consul there, whose name was given as G. Dallegio, together with Suleyman Bey, the Turkish Consul at Syra, and the families of the two Consuls.

VIENNA PEACE MOVE FORCED KAISER'S HAND

Emperor Charles Wanted His Reign to Begin With War's End.

PARIS, Dec. 16.—While Emperor Charles of Austria-Hungary is credited with having taken the initiative in the peace move on the part of the coalition of the Central Powers by the Bernese correspondent of *La Liberte* on the strength of information obtained from political circles in touch with officials of the Central Powers, the new Emperor, it is said, desired to inaugurate his reign by an effort in favor of peace. This worried the Berlin Government, which feared that the young monarch might prove an uncertain ally.

The visit of Emperor William of Germany to Vienna, it is declared, was not to attend the funeral of the late Emperor, but was for the purpose of having a personal interview with Emperor Charles. The interview could not be held on the day of the funeral, but at the second conference, at which King Ferdinand of Bulgaria also was present, Emperor Charles is supposed to have consented to a postponement of the offer of peace until after the capture of Bucharest.

BRITAIN STOPS IRISH STRIKE.

Government Speedily Takes Over Operation of Railways.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—Two serious labor problems have been averted by quick action on the part of the new British Government.

The Government has decided to take over the Irish railways, according to an announcement today by James Henry Thomas, Labor Member of Parliament for Derby and assistant general secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. By this action the threatened railway strike in Ireland has been averted.

The striking boiler-makers of Liverpool have voted by a large majority to resume work next Monday. Men engaged in urgent Government work were authorized to return this afternoon and work over the week end.

KAISER AGAIN GRANDFATHER.

Son Is Born to Prince and Princess Joachim.

BERLIN, via London, Dec. 16.—Prince Joachim of Prussia, daughter-in-law of the German Emperor, gave birth to a son yesterday. The child is the fourth grandchild of the Emperor and the fourth to be born since the beginning of the war.

Prince Joachim, the youngest son of the German Emperor, was married to Princess Marie Augustine of Anhalt in the royal castle of Bellevue on March 31, 1910.

KAISER PICTURED AS OFFERING PHANTOM

Jean Finot, Editor of "La Revue," Says Proposal Is Outrage on Germans.

GOADING ON THE PEOPLE

Women of France Also Speak Against Overture Through "Daniel Lesueur."

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun. PARIS, Dec. 16.—French opinion on the German peace proposal finds comprehensive expression in the views given to *The Sun* correspondent by Jean Finot, editor of *La Revue*, "Daniel Lesueur," the writer, and Baron d'Estournelles de Constant.

M. Finot said: "The peace proposal of the Kaiser constitutes another flagrant outrage on his people. Neither the Allies nor neutrals are deceived about its real sense and value. Its object is to obtain desperate efforts from the German people, so a phantom truly grotesque is sprung before their eyes."

"Allied diplomacy would have but one reply to make if the offer were worthy of a reply. It would make clear that it could, strictly speaking, discuss peace with the German people, but could never lower itself to treat with those who created, endorsed and practiced the abominable doctrine which degrades international treaties to the level of scraps of paper."

Not Ripe for Peace.

"If the German nation is not ripe enough to rid itself of the Hohenzollerns and their surroundings their peace also is not yet ripe for them. Thus the German people may perhaps gain assistance toward being placed on the road to its future existence."

The opinion of no more representative French woman could be asked than that of "Daniel Lesueur," the writer. Mme. Lesueur, who in private life is the wife of Henri Lapeau, curator of the Petit Palais, is in close touch with the best literary and artistic life of Paris, while her work for war charities has kept her in contact with women of humble ranks. She said:

"We women of France did not wish for the war, but we accepted it as a holy war in the face of Belgium's assassination, North France's martyrdom and the monstrous menace against Paris and our country. Now that we have given the blood of our sons, husbands and brothers we reject with horror the peace offered us by the aggressors."

Fear of Just Chastisement.

"They believe that to-day they can draw the utmost possible profit from their crimes. Tomorrow will be too late. The fear of just chastisement inspires them. Germany speaks to us as a bandit speaks to his victim when he hears the steps of a policeman approaching."

"Vive France, intact and free! Vive Belgium, innocent! Vive the right! Glory to our dead, fallen for the honor of humanity. The women of France will have nothing of German peace."

Baron d'Estournelles de Constant said: "The soul of France is pacific. Here the horror of war is only too well justified by the martyrdom of her invaded population and all the victims of Prussian militarism, but precisely because she wishes peace she will beware of any deceitful offer of peace."

"How can she believe in the sincerity



of a German Government which for two and a half years has not ceased to violate all engagements, all laws, international and humane?

"Germany has the misfortune of being under the domination of a Government from which all can be suspected to-day except peace. When the German Government talks of peace everybody believes a new snare is to be presented, and every man redoubles his efforts. There will be mistrust so long as her armies occupy the countries they conquered in contempt of every right."

"If the German Government wishes to make an offer which will be taken seriously let it commence by making known what it understands by the conditions of an honorable and lasting peace. If not, let us redouble our united energy, to continue until the final victory to oppose force by force."

ATTACKS ON BRIAND.

Opposition Jealous of Giving Premier Power to Issue Decree.

PARIS, Dec. 16.—The Opposition to the Government in the Chamber of Deputies, notwithstanding the majority for Premier Briand and the recent vote of confidence, renewed their attacks today on the occasion of the discussion of the Government's demand for author-

ization to regulate by decree urgent questions affecting national defence, among them the prohibition of the sale of alcoholic beverages.

There has not been so much politics in the air since the war began. Interpellations by Senators Clemenceau and Henri Berenger on Tuesday are awaited with much interest in the expectation that the issue of the conflict in the Senate will finally clear the situation.

Answering the cries of "dictatorship" from the Radical parliamentarians and some of the newspapers, *Le Temps* says: "The country is tired of these passionate debates which are scarcely to be tolerated in time of peace. Prompt action is what is wanted."

The *Journal des Debats* says: "To say to the Government 'govern' and then cry 'dictatorship' so soon as it asks to be allowed in urgent cases to issue decrees instead of soliciting legislation, is to push contradiction too far."

Munitions Explosion Kills 14.

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Dec. 16.—Fourteen persons were killed and seventy-seven others were injured by a violent explosion last night at a munitions factory at Follendorf, a village of lower Austria, in the district of Wiener-Neustadt, says the *Vienna Neue Presse*.

BRITISH UNDECIDED ON PEACE OVERTURE

Lloyd George's Illness May Not Permit Him to Define Position Tuesday.

THREE COURSES OPEN

Indications Are German Proposal Won't Be Rejected Without Consideration.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—It appears doubtful to-day whether Premier David Lloyd George will be able to go before the House of Commons on Tuesday. He is making steady progress toward recovery, but it is considered unlikely that his physicians will allow him to speak next week, as his voice is affected.

It is quite possible that Mr. Lloyd George's first appearance in the House of Commons in his new capacity as Prime Minister may be delayed until the Government is in a position to pronounce a definite statement of its policy toward the German peace proposals.

The speech delivered last night by Arthur Henderson is being commented on as more specific in regard to the peace proposal of the Central Powers than any other utterance from a responsible Government source. Mr. Henderson is one of the five members of the War Cabinet which has just been formed and has supreme authority in regard to the general conduct of the war. He defined the reparation which Andrew Bonar Law declared was still the policy of the Government as being "reparation for all that Belgium, France, Serbia and Poland have suffered."

Why England Entered War.

Mr. Henderson's statement that Great Britain entered the war "in defense of small nationalities" was taken as an indication that the defence of small nationalities would be one of the essentials of security for the future, to which Mr. Bonar Law referred in general.

One of the foremost diplomatic authorities of England and America said to-day that the trend of public and governmental sentiment thus far had shown that three courses were open—first, categorical refusal to negotiate on lines similar to the position assumed by the Russian Duma; second, refusal to negotiate and a statement of the essential aims and purposes of the Allies, in order to place their position rightly before the world; third, a request for Germany's terms, which would be expected to disclose to the Allies that these terms were impossible of acceptance.

It was the view of this authority that British sentiment had not yet crystallized as to which one of these three courses should be adopted.

Sir Hedley de Beas, who is a retired

soldier, writes to the papers urging that the men in the trenches have the highest right to speak on the question of ending the fighting.

Despatches from Switzerland say that Count Tisza, the Hungarian Premier, has gone to Berlin to use his influence for peace.

The French victory at Verdun is acclaimed by all the London papers as the French reply to the German Emperor's speech to his troops in Alsace and Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's claim of the invincibility of German arms.

Opinions of Press.

The opinions in the British press, as reflected in the latest editorials, are almost unanimous that Great Britain cannot ignore the overtures and that the least the Government can do is to make a statement on the Allies' aims and objects or ask for the presentation of the German terms. The weekly reviews, including the financial ones, take up the same line, as do also the provincial papers. The only notable exception has been the *Northcliffe* group, which immediately urged that Great Britain ignore the overtures.

There appears to be a consensus of opinion that the Allies should not consider entering into a conference until they know approximately the Central Powers' policy and unless they consider that that policy contains the seeds for agreement.

Philip Snowden, Socialist member for Blackburn, one of the leaders of the small pacifist group in the House of Commons, has made it known that he intends to state the views of that group in the Commons. Its members believe that negotiations should be opened, if only to state the terms of the Entente to the Central Powers.

The *Westminster Gazette* to-day says it will be found that Mr. Snowden is by no means an advocate of peace at any price and that his party has very definite views as to the reparation which Germany should make. The belief is expressed that negotiations should be granted reasonable terms is not, however, says the newspaper, shared by a majority of the House.

The first essential of peace, in the opinion of the Nation, is that both sides shall concede the right to independence of all nations. Commenting on Germany's peace offer the Nation says: "The test will come when our answer is known and Germany has to decide whether she will modify her offer and come nearer to our position. The real onus for the continuance of the war will rest on the side which maintains any demand which would be fatal to the independence and future of any belligerent."

"If Germany, for instance, has really claimed Serbia as her prey she has included at least one point which convicts her of either unbelievable stupidity or mere insincerity, and if the claim is maintained precludes further discussion. But even to an offer including such a point our answer must be reasoned and precise. We shall lose nothing in the world's court of honor by rejecting the claim, but let us not lose sight of our guiding principle that this war is waged for the ending of militarism. If Germany makes a claim involving the destruction of an independent nation the war is not yet morally won. Her repudiation of all such claims will be the test of her sincerity."

Seen as Distress Cry.

The *Economist* says it believes "Germany's cry for peace is actually a confession of internal weakness, prompted by distress at home and the difficulties

she is experiencing in keeping her ill-assorted team of allies together and in fighting them."

Commenting on the signs which it says American business men have shown of believing that Germany's action has brought peace nearer, the *Economist* says:

"This belief will only prove to be well founded if Germany is prepared to accept terms that can be agreed upon by all the Allies opposed to her, and will embody the achievements of the objects for which the Allies are fighting. During this year the armies of Germany and her colleagues have been hand-somely beaten by the French, Russian, Italian and British. On the other hand, they claim victory over little Rumania. If Germany is ready for a peace pact that will satisfy the victims of her aggression and protect civilization against similar attempts to ride roughshod over international decency and justice the smashing of Prussian militarism will be complete."

"Since it is extremely unlikely that this consummation is yet in sight, our only policy is to take all possible measures for the prosecution of the war, with our confidence confirmed by the signal of distress our enemies have run up to the masthead. Our readiness to do so is very clearly proved by the welcome given by the country to the new Government, which only claims its support by promising to concentrate the energies of the country on the task of achieving victory."

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